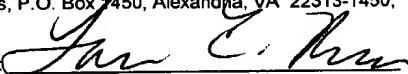




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Dated: May 3, 2004 Signature: 
(Lawrence E. Russ)

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Group Art Unit: 2613
Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-176

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: :
Motoki Kato :
Application No.: 09/872,274 : Group Art Unit: 2613
Filed: June 1, 2001 : Examiner: B. M. Senfi
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR :
INFORMATION PROCESSING :

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Technology Center 2600

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 2, 2004, finally rejecting claims 1-27, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: